



caring for Indiana's land:

a cleanup success story

The Environmental Services Section accomplished the clean-up of petroleum contaminated soil at six old INDOT facility sites between June and November of 2003. The six sites were: Kitley Traffic Annex in Indianapolis, Linton Subdistrict, St. John Unit, Vincennes District, Warsaw Subdistrict and Winamac Subdistrict.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) approved a corrective action plan (CAP) before the cleanup and reimbursement.

The contamination was caused by a history of leaking underground storage tanks of gasoline and diesel fuel. INDOT spent approximately \$658,000 and has received approximately \$80,000 back from IDEM as reimbursement from the Excess Liability Trust Fund, and is seeking more reimbursement.

Clean-up was done by using a variety of environmentally-friendly means. One tactic used was landfarming, a process of spreading the petroleum contaminated soil on an impervious fabric no more than eighteen inches deep. Another method used was to dig up the area and haul it away to an approved landfill. Petroleum contaminated soil is not considered hazardous, only contaminated. Landfills landfarm petroleum contaminated soil and use it for clean fill.

All six sites must be monitored and the laboratory results of the samples from monitoring wells submitted to IDEM every quarter until clean results occur for four consecutive quarters. Then IDEM will issue INDOT no-further-action (NFA) on these sites.

greening the government

"Greening the Government" was established in 1999 to improve the environmental performance of

all state operations. Governor Joseph Kernan signed a second executive order on September 13, 2003 to carry on the Greening the Government initiatives.

Since that time, INDOT has been vigilantly working toward that initiative. In 2003, INDOT recycled the following products:

- concrete and recycled asphalt pavement: one million tons (estimated)
- waste tires: 500+ tons (estimated)
- waste oil: 50,856 gallons
- waste oil filters: 4,675 gallons
- waste antifreeze: 1,155 gallons
- used oil absorbents: 3,850 gallons
- fluorescent bulbs: 4,451
- broken bulbs: 633 gallons
- household batteries: 110 gallons
- mercury devices: four gallons
- incandescent bulbs: five four-foot drums
- waste paint: 2,970 gallons
- paint related material: 825 gallons
- flammable liquid: 495 gallons

cleaning up the roadways

After the snow melts, Indiana's roadsides reveal litter and debris that has accumulated over the winter season.

To reduce trash before mowing begins, INDOT holds its annual Trash Bash each April.

Since 1997, INDOT crews and Adopt-A-Highway volunteers have joined forces to "spring clean" every mile of interstate during Trash Bash. Each year, nearly 340 tons of trash are collected—sprucing up the highways in time for nice weather.





protecting Indiana's forests

About 1,500 acres of upland forest near Paragon in Morgan County will be protected as a state forest and recreation area, Governor Joe Kernan and the Indianapolis Power and Light Company (IPL) announced in December. The land, which was owned by IPL, is part of 4,050 acres that were to have been auctioned.

"Morgan County is a rapidly developing area with a very bright future. It is important to preserve wildlife habitat and greenspace for public recreation as communities grow," Governor Kernan said.

The land purchased by the state is a mature, upland forest located east of Burkhart Creek and north of State Road 67. It is bordered on the north and east by privately owned forestland. The Department of Natural Resources will manage the land as part of Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

The property will be enjoyed by wildlife watchers, birders, hikers and hunters. DNR Director John Goss said that he hopes the county will develop a park and recreation board to work with the state to develop some of the land as a county park.

protecting the Indiana bat

The Indiana Department of Transportation is helping to protect an endangered species, the Indiana Bat.

A local colony of bats that would have been disrupted by the projects around I-70 and the Indianapolis International Airport is now being

protected. The protection comes from a plan called the Indiana Bat Habitat Conservation Plan, developed by an Interagency Task Force and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Specifically, it includes permanent protection of 373 acres of existing bat habitat, the planting and protection of 346 additional acres of hardwood trees used by Indiana Bats, monitoring the Indiana Bat population in the project area for 15 years, monitoring of plantings for five years and public education and outreach.

The Interagency Task Force was comprised of representatives of the Indianapolis Airport Authority, Indiana Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the City of Indianapolis and the Hendricks County Board of County Commissioners.

The Indiana Bat Habitat Conservation Plan will provide long-term conservation for the Indiana Bat and will allow for airport expansion, commercial development and road construction in wooded areas where Indiana Bats roost and search for food. The plan provides for restoration of additional forested areas bats need to survive and permanent protection for key blocks of bat habitat.

roadside heritage

A way to beautify Indiana's roadsides, while saving on mowing costs and minimizing erosion, gave way to the creation of Indiana's Roadside Heritage Program. The program was established in 1999 in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Environmental Management and Department of Natural Resources. The goal of the program is to promote the use of native plants in state right of way.

These plants reduce costs associated with mowing and using herbicides, minimize erosion and create a visual interest for the motoring public.

Since the development of this program, seed source sites have been developed at the Winamac and Frankfort Subdistrict offices. Funds to develop these sites were obtained through the TE program. Another use of TE funds for this program was the publishing of the Native Plants and Wildflower brochure, which is available at welcome centers and rest areas.

A funding category for the use of native plants and grasses has also been developed. The projects in this category are for native plant and wildflower landscaping projects in right of way that is not part of a construction project. In the second year of this program, which is part of the Transportation Improvement Program, there are 20 scheduled projects with more than 200 acres programmed for planting.